

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-18 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 7, 17 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-18 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note, with thanks, the Examiner's indication of the allowability of Claims 1-6 and 14-16. Applicants have not amended such claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 1-6 and 14-16 are still in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection of Claims 7-13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner observed that Claim 7 sets forth in line 2 "a magnetoresistive write device." The Examiner further stated that the disclosure does not provide support for a magnetoresistive device, which in the art would be expected to serve as a read device, that writes to a magnetic medium.

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 7 by striking the word "magnetoresistive" from line 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants submit that Claims 8-13, which depend from Claim 7, are likewise in condition for allowance.

III. Rejection of Claims 17 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted that Claim 17 depends from itself.

In response, Applicants have amended Claims 17 and 18 so that they both depend from Claim 15, which has been allowed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

IV. Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the Specification to correct certain grammatical errors and other obvious errors. No new matter has been added.

V. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

| | Claims Remaining After Amendment | | Highest Number Previously Paid For | Present Extra | Rate | Additional Fee |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Total (37 CFR 1.16(c)) | 18 | Minus | 20 | = 0 | x \$18 = | \$ 0.00 |
| Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b)) | 4 | Minus | 4 | = 0 | x \$84 = | \$ 0.00 |

As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for four (4) independent claims. Therefore, Applicants believe that no additional claim fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

VI. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Tejpal S. Hansra
Registration No. 38,172
Hansra Patent Services
4525 Glen Meadows Place
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 527-1400

Date: JULY 10, 2003